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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
MAIL STOP AF

Attorney Docket No. 2823 (203-3209 PCT US)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Joseph P. ORBAN III et al. Examiner: Julian W. Woo  
App. No.: 10/516,435 Art Unit: 3773  
Filed: November 30, 2004 Dated: January 19, 2010  
For: **ANNULAR SUPPORT STRUCTURES**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Filed Via EFS-Web**  
Confirmation No.: 3071

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL**

Sir:

In response to a Final Office Action dated November 17, 2009, please amend the above-identified application as set forth hereinbelow.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

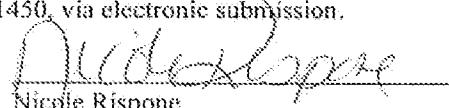
**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.

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**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted on the date below with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, via electronic submission.

Dated: January 19, 2010



Nicole Riscone